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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Juichi **Takahara** (Japan)

Programme questions: programme planning (item 4 (a))

Measures for sectoral, functional and regional bodies to review the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005

1. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 15 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on measures for sectoral, functional and regional bodies to review the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 (A/54/89).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. It was observed that concrete and action-oriented proposals from the Secretary-General on recommendations of the General Assembly would have been appreciated.

4. Appreciation was expressed for the information contained in the report concerning the timetable for review of portions of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005. The measures taken by the Secretariat in ensuring adequate intergovernmental review, taking into account the complexity of scheduling meetings, were duly recognized. In this connection, the Committee was informed that, subsequent to the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law had indicated that it would review subprogramme 5.5, Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade, of programme 5, Legal affairs. It was noted

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that there was no special review for subprogrammes 1.1 to 1.4 of programme 1, Political affairs; subprogrammes 5.1 to 5.4 and 5.6 of programme 5, Legal affairs; subprogrammes 7.1 and 7.7 of programme 7, Economic and social affairs; programme 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development; and programme 20, Humanitarian assistance. Review of those programmes and subprogrammes had, up to now, been undertaken only by the Committee. The view was expressed that they should all be included in the programme of work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly.

5. The importance of adequate review by specialized intergovernmental bodies, including the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees, was emphasized. In this connection, the importance and necessity of views expressed collectively cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, every effort should be made by the Secretariat to ensure that views of intergovernmental bodies as a whole are taken into account when preparing the proposed medium-term plan.

6. Concern was expressed about the inadequate attention given by the Main Committees of the General Assembly to the medium-term plan and its revisions. It was stressed that every effort should be made to ensure that the Fifth Committee received views of the Main Committees also prior to its consideration of the plan and its revisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that the specialized intergovernmental bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees of the General Assembly, should include, in their programme of work, an agenda item on programme planning for the review of the proposed medium-term plan and its revisions. The Committee also recommended that the Fifth Committee receive all relevant comments prior to its consideration of the proposed medium-term plan and its revisions.

8. The Committee recommended that it should receive, at its fortieth session, the reports of intergovernmental bodies that would have reviewed the Secretary-General's proposals related to the medium-term plan, whether or not their views had already been incorporated in the Secretary-General's submission to the Committee.

9. The Committee recommended that, in the absence of a specialized intergovernmental body to conduct an in-depth review of the medium-term plan and its revisions of subprogrammes 1.1 to 1.4 of programme 1, Political affairs; subprogrammes 5.1 to 5.4 and 5.6 of programme 5, Legal affairs; subprogrammes 7.1 and 7.7 of programme 7, Economic and social affairs; programme 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development; and programme 20, Humanitarian assistance, it should conduct such a review.